

FROM WASHINGTON.

Opinion of Foreign Officers Concerning the Attack upon Charleston.
From an Occasional Correspondent.

Washington, April 18, 1863.

The conversation and remarks of the few persons who were present at the attack upon Charleston, as well as the opinions of military critics, go to prove the same thing: the incompleteness of our means and the inadequacy of the Monitors to undertake single-handed the reduction of the fortresses which defend the entrance of that city, and to silence its batteries. According to the testimony of some European officers who have witnessed such an effort of intelligence, however great, would have been able to supply the deficiency of our material of war; to that alone, and not to the want of ability of the commanding officer, who had to use such means, as was pointed out, the ill-success of the expedition must be attributed. As it has been said by several correspondents who witnessed the fight, Admiral Du Pont as well as his staff officers were by no means satisfied that the instruments with which they had been provided would justify public expectation. It was an experiment, and they have been disappointed; but that experiment does not damage in the least degree their capacity as officers, and still less their gallantry; it only affects the constructors of the vessels sent to Admiral Du Pont, and the reputation of those who gave the order of attack without previously providing our navy with proper means of carrying it through successfully.

It is seldom that in such expeditions as these the invading party confides its means of attack exclusively to the Navy Department. The army, and especially the land artillery, ought to participate in it, and it is by their combined efforts that success is obtained. No fortress, in ancient or modern times, has been reduced without the assistance of land batteries, previously established on shore, under the protection of the Navy. Algiers, Bomarsund, Kinburn, all the great fortifications recently taken by European armies, were taken by the combined forces of land and sea. Is it not then to be wondered at that no preparation had been made to avail ourselves of the ten thousand gallant men who, under command of Gen. Hunter, stood silent spectators of the fight, powerless to render the slightest assistance. Had these men been put in iron-clad transports, on the deck of which they might have used their artillery, and had a point of landing been assigned to them, there can't be doubt that the result of the expedition would have been very different. It is by no means impossible that we might have secured on shore a permanent foothold, and have established a base of operations for the successful reduction of their strongholds.

Independently of the cooperation of the land forces, of which we were deprived, we might have added to the efficiency of the Monitors by strengthening them with some raised batteries such as are built in England and France for the siege of cities.

The Mecklenburg bark Von Saffert Lehson, Capt. Schmitz, from Newport, England, 65 days, with coal to Wm. Salem & Co., reports: 19th inst., off George's Shoals, saw two men-of-war, one a brig-rigged steamer, painted black, very low, cruising;

also, a large frigate lying to. They showed no colors. Saw a schooner close by them, apparently running from the steamer.

A DANGEROUS ASSOCIATION.—In a recent examination of parties arrested for disloyalty, at Westminster, Carroll Co., Md., it came out in the evidence that there exists in that region an association of traitors bound together by secret oaths, to aid and abet the cause of the public enemy by all means in their power, including a project to invite an invasion of Maryland, and a promise on their part to murder their Union neighbors, &c. The authorities in that quarter are after the prime movers, and will so dispose of them as will serve for a warning to the thousands of Rebel sympathizers in Maryland.

A little boy went to a wharf in Philadelphia on Saturday, got upon a canal boat, and undressed himself. Later in the day the clothes still lay upon the dead body. The lad was no more seen. Next day his dead body was found floating in the water. It was drawn to the shore. The boy was scarce more than a child—about twelve years old. An examination of the body showed the marks of very severe flagellation—livid weals crossing each other at every inch of his back. The Coroner's Jury rendered a verdict, "Found drowned," but the probability is that the little fellow ended his misery by suicide.

Mr. Jefferson Kenny, who left Bourbon County, Kentucky, two years since, and entered the Rebel service, has just returned and reported at Burnside's headquarters. He is tired of the rebellion, and wants to take the oath. He says the South is now in a wretched condition, and entirely destitute of food and clothing; thousands would leave the rebel service if they had a chance. He came into the State with Cluke, and escaped from him.

Not a little excitement has been created in Trenton, N. J., by the arrest of Deputy U. S. Marshal Harris, together with a constable named Dean. The arrest was made by the Sheriff of Hunterdon County

in pursuance of an indictment found at the present term of that court against the prisoners for the arrest of Mr. Knobell on a warrant from the Secretary of War. The Grand Jury have also indicted the Marshal under whose direction Harris was acting.

Prentiss says: There are so many more women than men now in the South that it is thought a law establishing polygamy will be enacted there, each man to allow five wives. Is not this a strong encouragement to our Rebel women here in Kentucky to persevere in their efforts to get the State into the Southern Confederacy? How would they like to see the awful husband-famine extended over Kentucky?

Kidnapping negroes, to be run off into Kentucky, has been practised on an extensive scale in Louisville. The plan is to kidnap negroes,

claimed as runaways, into the calaboose, and then carry them over the river by the omnibus load at midnight, keeping them in the railroad depot till the morning train starts, when they are shipped off to Evansville by railroad. Several contrabands, holding free papers, have been re-enslaved in this manner.

POST-OFFICE DIRECTORY.—A revised Post-Office Directory for 1863, edited by J. Disturnell, has been published by J. H. Colton. It contains an alphabetical list of the post-offices in the United States, with the names of the Post-Masters and a variety of other important postal information.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS.

—Gen. Ammen, lately appointed by Gen. Burnside to command the District of Illinois, is an officer of thorough military education. He is a native of Virginia, but entered the West Point Academy from Ohio, in 1827, graduating four years later. On the 1st of July, 1831, he received the appointment of 2d Lieutenant, by brevet, in the 1st Artillery, and on the same day attained the full rank of that grade. He was Acting Assistant Professor of Mathematics from Oct. 1, 1831, to June 21, 1832, in the Military Academy, and from the last named date to Aug. 31, of the same year, was Assistant Instructor of Infantry tactics. He was Acting Assistant Professor of Mathematics from Oct. 1, 1834, to Aug. 31, 1836, and Assistant Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy from that time to Nov. 5, 1837. He was promoted 1st Lieutenant, May 3, 1836. Resigned the service Nov. 30, 1837. He was Professor of Mathematics in Bacon College, Georgetown, Ky., from 1837 to 1838, when he assumed the Chair of Mathematics in Jefferson College, Washington, Mississippi, where he continued one year. He was afterward Professor of Mathematics in the University of Indiana, from 1839 to 1843, whence he returned to his former post in Jefferson College, Mississippi, where he remained several years. Early in the present war he enlisted as a private in an Ohio regiment, but was subsequently appointed to command, as Colonel, the 2d Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and at the recent special session of the United States Senate was confirmed as Brigadier-General of Volunteers. He served with distinction in the Western Virginia campaign, and also took part in the battle at Pittsburgh Landing, where he commanded a brigade. Owing to ill health he was compelled to return from the field, and for several months past has been in command at Camp Douglas, Chicago. He has the reputation of being a prudent and judicious as well as experienced officer.

A pleasant story is told of the adventures of Mrs. Gray, wife of a conductor on the New-York and Erie Railroad, and her baby, while passengers from Cincinnati, by the Cleveland Express train.

While the lady was procuring some refreshments, the bell tapped, and she hastened out to find the train, on board of which was her darling two-year-old and all her baggage, moving off and already beyond her reach. The shock at the sight on her nervous system was terrible to witness. Not that she was noisy or even wept aloud, but the agony depicted in her pale face, the quiver of her lip, her starting eyes and words of alarm and affection told of the intense emotion of a mother's love. As soon as possible she ran to the telegraph office, and there meeting the officers of the road, who, on learning the sad case, directed, by telegraph, the operator of the road to Lewis Center, to take the child and baggage in charge till further ordered. Mr. Patterson, the Resident Agent of the Company, with all the kindness of a tender parent, placed an extra train on the track. A half-hour of anxiety to the mother passed, when the following was received: "Child and traps all safe at Dr. [unclear] Lady passengers on the train unwilling to part with so good a child." In thirty minutes the extra train made the eighteen miles to Lewis Center, and the ruby boy was smiling in the arms of his grateful mother. It should be added that the lady, with whom the child was left in the train, a Miss Holmes of Cleveland, got off with it, and waited till the mother's arrival before she would resign her charge.

—The *Cairo News* of the 15th relates that a young woman, about nineteen years of age, arrived at Cairo several days ago, with the 14th tons, dressed in soldier's uniform and serving Capt. Crane of Company H, in the capacity of servant. She depicted herself as a male, attended theater, and answered as promptly to the sobriquet of Charley as if it were really her name. On Saturday she attended the theater, took a seat among her fellow spectators, but her disguise could not conceal her sex.

SUPERIOR COURT—GENERAL TERM.—APRIL 23.—Before Justice ROBERTSON AND MELLON.

DECISIONS.

Sackett agt. Sackett; John H. Mellone agt. Erie.

Hay—Motions denied.

In the matter of the application of John C. Abbott to vacate, etc., etc.—Reference ordered.

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DECISIONS.

John Moffit agt. Wm. B. Moffit et al.—Decree of the Court below affirmed.

John D. Ross agt. Francis Priest.—Order reversed, unless he can show that the same is modified so as to allow all the Justices to hear the second and third questions to be argued in the second and third.

SUPERIOR COURT—GENERAL TERM.—APRIL 23.—Before Justice ROBERTSON AND MELLON.

DECISIONS.

Helen McNaught agt. John McNaught.—Ordered defendant to hold, and that interrogatories be filed.

John D. Ross agt. Wm. S. Lee et al.—Motion denied.

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